

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 16, 2004

News Review Holiday Schedule

Staff at the Greenbelt News Review as well as the print shop that publishes the newspaper will be juggling their schedules during the next few weeks in order to spend time with family and friends. That means that we have made changes to our advertising and copy deadlines.

For the issue dated December 23

Advertising and Copy Deadline has been adjusted to Sunday, December 19.

For the issue dated December 30

Advertising and Copy Deadline has been adjusted to Monday, December 28.

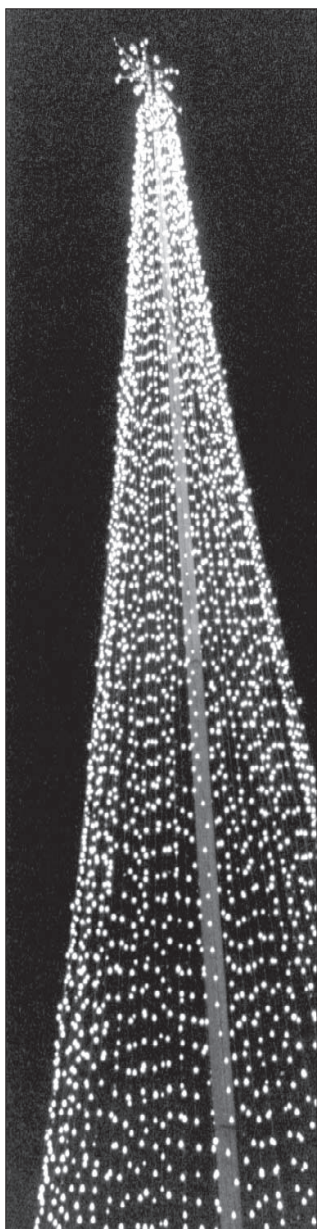
Holiday Office Hours

Sunday, Dec. 19: OPEN 2 to 4 p.m., 8 to 10 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 20 through Sunday, Dec. 26: CLOSED.

Monday, Dec. 27: OPEN 2 to 4 p.m., 8 to 10 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 28 through Sunday, Jan. 2: CLOSED.



BIG WIN FOR CITY

The Court of Appeals of Maryland, the state's highest court, has denied the Prince George's County Planning Board's petition for a writ of certiorari to hear the Planning Board's case against the City of Greenbelt over the conceptual site plans for the Greenbelt Metro station development.

The order, signed by Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, states that the petition is "denied as there has been no showing that review by certiorari is desirable and in the public interest."

The Planning Board request for a writ of certiorari came after the Maryland Court of Special Appeals reversed the Prince George's County Council's approval of the conceptual site plan filed by the Metroland Developers LLC for the proposed Greenbelt Metro station development and adjacent property in Greenbelt West.

The Court of Special Appeals had also reversed the approval by the Prince George's County Planning Board for the preliminary plat of subdivision for the property. These decisions will now stand.

The effect of the Special Appeals Court decision is to send the case back to the Prince George's County Planning Board to correct the erroneous findings and to try again to approve a conceptual site plan for the Metro station development that meets the statutory requirements of the zoning ordinance.

Chronology: Conceptual Site Plan & Preliminary Plat of Subdivision

2001

- Jan. 31 Conceptual Site Plan (CSP) filed by Metroland.
- March 26 Preliminary Plat of Subdivision (PPS) filed by Metro Park.
- July 1 M-NCPPC issues Technical Staff Report recommending approval of the PPS application, subject to conditions.
- July 2 M-NCPPC issues Technical Staff Report recommending approval of CSP subject to conditions.
- July 12 Prince George's County Planning Board Hearing on CSP.
- July 26 Planning Board approves CSP application.
- Aug. 28 City of Greenbelt et al. appeal Planning Board decision to the Prince Georges County Council (District Council).
- Sep. 6 Prince George's County Planning Board Hearing on PPS.
- Sep. 24 District Council affirms Planning Board decision on CSP.
- Oct. 18 Planning Board issues opinion approving PPS, subject to conditions.
- Oct. 26 City of Greenbelt et al. appeal to Prince George's County Circuit Court of CSP approval.
- Nov. 21 City of Greenbelt et al. appeal PPS approval to Circuit Court.

2002

- March 24 Oral argument re: CSP before the Circuit Court.
- Nov. 8 Oral argument re: PPS before the Circuit Court.

2003

- May 13 Circuit Court order and memorandum affirming Planning Board and District Council approval of CSP.
- May 14 Circuit Court order and memorandum affirming Planning Board and District Council approval of PPS.
- July 12 City of Greenbelt et al. appeals CSP and PPS decisions to Maryland Court of Special Appeals.

2004

- March 9 Oral Argument before the Court of Special Appeals.
- Aug. 30 Court of Special Appeals opinion reversing the CSP and PPS approvals filed.

What Goes On

Sunday, December 19

3 p.m., Holiday Lights Concert, Community Center gym

Monday, December 20

8 p.m., Council Worksession with Springhill Lake management, Municipal Building

Friday, December 31

7 p.m. to 1 a.m., Greenbelt New Year, Community Center, Youth Center, Old Greenbelt Theatre, New Deal Café, Greenbelt Arts Center

Sappington Describes Iraq Experience Training Police

by Sandra Lange

"The brotherhood of policemen extends around the world." This is the creed former Greenbelt police officer Doug Sappington tried to instill in the officers he mentored during his year-long stay in Iraq. Just one month after retiring from serving 26 years on the Greenbelt police force, Sappington was among the first group of senior police officials who flew to Iraq in October 2003.

Sappington's first assignment was to win the respect of the Baghdad Chief of Police. He knew that he had accomplished this goal when each day the chief greeted him with the customary three kisses on the cheek. Along with winning his trust, Sappington had to teach him to make his own decisions confidently. "Under the old regime Iraqis risked their lives if they showed initiative," Sappington stated.

One of his main jobs in Iraq was to establish a recruiting system and training program for Iraqi police. To win the trust of Iraqi officers, Sappington had to overcome the preconceived idea that all Americans were like "Dirty Harry." He also had to teach Iraqis how to police in a democracy. In the past officials were accustomed to taking money or "backshish" as part of



Doug Sappington back home on Greenbelt soil talks to the News Review from the New Deal Café.

their routine business.

To overcome this expectation, Sappington said, the salaries of Iraqi police were increased. The average policeman now receives about US \$200 per month while the chief receives about \$800 per month. These are large amounts by Iraqi standards, he said. He hopes the Iraqis will also establish their own internal affairs division.

After spending four months working in Baghdad, Sappington was sent to the southern province of Basra. There his biggest problem, he said, was getting the British to accept help. The Brits had their own structure set up and did not welcome an American presence, Sappington said.

See **SAPPINGTON**, page 9

Greenbelt's Sandi Dutton Heads U.S. Legion Auxiliary

Sandi Dutton, a member of Greenbelt's American Legion Auxiliary Unit 136, is the new national president of the Auxiliary, elected for a one-year term.

Dutton is eligible for American Legion Auxiliary membership through her late father, Cal Willoughby, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II. She joined the Greenbelt Unit as a junior member in 1970.

Dutton, 46, is leading the world's largest women's patriotic service organization, the American Legion Auxiliary, under the theme, "Catch the Wave." This theme is meant to renew Auxiliary members' sense of obligation to veterans and their families through an Auxiliary wave of opportunity, service and commitment.

The once shy junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary is now an outgoing leader, with goals for the organization.

Dutton is committed to her work, whether it is her job at Summit Marketing or volunteering through the American Legion



Auxiliary. She is a proven sales professional, currently taking on a new challenge: educating American citizens about the American Legion Auxiliary and the work that its members do for veterans, young people and com-

munities.

"Auxiliary members are dedicated, progressive and kind women who give of themselves because they believe in America and because they care about their fellow citizens," Dutton says. "It is an absolute honor to lead this group of women."

Dutton's leadership started early within the American Legion Auxiliary. She served as president of her local junior group and was elected honorary department junior vice president. As a senior member, she served as secretary and treasurer on the district level and as district president during 1983-1984. Unit 136 awarded Dutton an honorary life membership in 1986.

See **DUTTON**, page 5



Our Carriers Bring Holiday Greetings

Around this time of year it has been traditional for the youngsters who deliver the News Review to leave holiday greetings envelopes at the homes they serve. The News Review's financial position is such that we cannot pay our carriers very much. They are therefore dependent on generous holiday donations to supplement their nominal pay.

Most of the carriers range in age from pre-teen to the middle teens. For the younger boys and girls, delivering the News Review is their first job experience. Many of the older carriers started at a young age and continue to deliver the News Review mainly as a service to their neighborhood. It is a learning process for all these youngsters and, in some cases, the instillation of responsibility takes time and patience.

The holiday season affords us all a chance to show appreciation and to provide encouragement for the efforts of these youngsters and at the same time to show understanding for any failings that might have occurred during the year.

Again this year, the carriers will leave envelopes. We hope these envelopes, equipped with each carrier's name and address, will be helpful to our readers who wish to show appreciation. If your carrier's name or address is in doubt, mail your envelope to the News Review, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt MD 20770-1887 for forwarding. Please include your address so we can identify your carrier.

Letters

THANKS

The spirit of giving is alive and well at Green Ridge House and also with the residents of Greenbelt. I am thrilled to report that our collective efforts resulted in the purchase of 96 phone cards for our dedicated troops serving in Iraq. This amounts to 9,715 minutes that will reach around the globe so our troops can hear the voices of those they love and miss. What a meaningful way to thank the men and women for their courage, sacrifice and service for us all.

As we count our blessings this holiday season, our phone cards show our armed forces that we include them, thanking them for sharing their hearts and generous spirits.

As Tiny Tim said, "God bless us every one."

Marian Evans
Social Director
Green Ridge House

Doctors Hospital Holds Blood Drive

Doctors Community Hospital and the Greenbelt Lion's Club in partnership with the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Tuesday, December 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the hospital's campus at 8118 Good Luck Road in Lanham. The American Red Cross has issued an urgent appeal for blood donations. During the last two weeks Red Cross national blood inventories have dropped by more than 50 percent and are currently at less than a two-day supply. A seven-day supply is considered adequate. Call 301-552-8060 to make an appointment.

Peters Announces New Assignments

Prince George's County Councilmember Douglas J.J. Peters (D-4th District) has announced his council committee assignments for 2005 as he begins the third year of his first term on the Prince George's County Council. He also congratulated new Council Chair Samuel H. Dean (D-6th District) and Vice-chair Tom Dernoga (D-1st District) on their selection earlier this week and outgoing Chair Tony Knotts (D-8th District) for his leadership over the past year.

Peters will continue to chair the council Committee on Public Safety and Fiscal Management with oversight responsibility for all emergency service agencies, including the police and fire/EMS departments, as well as budget and finance issues before the council. He will also continue to serve as a member of the Committee for Health, Education and Human Services. He will join the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee, which has oversight for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, including the Planning Department, Parks and Recreation and Planning Board, zoning bills, subdivision bills, the people's zoning counsel and the county's Economic Development Corporation budget and issues.

In addition to council committee responsibilities, Peters will continue to serve as the council liaison to the Prince George's Municipal Association and will join the Public Safety Policy Committee for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, which includes 19 governments in the metropolitan Washington area.

Wi-Fi Transmitter Makes Roosevelt Center A Hot Spot for Laptop Computer Users

by Doug Love

Laptop computer users can access the world wide web anywhere in Roosevelt Center without being hooked up to phone lines, due to the Netgear Wireless Fidelity transmitter now installed in the window of the New Deal Café by the Greenbelt Internet Access Cooperative.

The equipment was donated by Alfredo Nava-Tudela, a systems administrator at the University of Maryland with an interest in seeing hot-spots multiply in the area. The university campus already has many of these hot spots in service. The DSL Phone line at the New Deal is being paid for by the Greenbelt Internet Access Cooperative, which has an interest in seeing Greenbelt become as internet-friendly as possible.

Dorian Winterfeld installed the NetGear Router and Wi-Fi transceiver in the Café with the advice and encouragement of GIAC board members Ed James and Doug Love. With help from Peter May, and advice from Doug Love and Ray Stevens, he was able to run phone wires through the ceiling and over to the window of the Café Monday night. Now two rows of green lights blink beside the antique musical instruments in the window, sending a signal that can be received and returned throughout the line-of-sight.

There are four other public hotspots in Greenbelt, according to www.wi-fihotspotlist.com: Starbucks in Greenway Center, the Holiday Inn and the two Marriott Hotels. Starbucks charges for use of their hot spot and the hotels are generally the only places where their signals can be used. Private hotspots exist in some GHI courts but are limited to those courts. One hot-spot owner is said to carry his laptop throughout his GHI unit while downloading movies and music.

Setting up free hotspots quickly is becoming vital. Philadelphia is preparing to become a city-wide hotspot but a state law is being pushed by lobbyists to prevent any other city in Pennsylvania from doing this. Blacksburg, Va., is already completely wired with high speed T1 lines but the newer Wi-Fi transmitters provide wireless service. Whole counties have been "wired" or are planning to be in western Maryland, parts of Colorado, California, Britain and even Pakistan. Doug Love, founder of the Greenbelt internet co-op, said "We're going to have to act ahead of laws which may



Dorian Winterfeld (seated) connects to the internet while Peter May looks on.

limit control of internet hot-spots."

Beverly Palau, communications coordinator of the City of Greenbelt says that City Manager Michael McLaughlin and IT director Steven Robinson have been looking into the situation and are aware of the legislation.

Connections are strongest in the plaza itself but lose speed down by the post office and tend to disconnect in places such as the senior's bench in the

Co-op. Beta testing is continuing and volunteers with laptops and Wi-Fi transceivers on their laptops are encouraged to help determine signal quality throughout the center of Greenbelt.

Ellen Siegel, manager of the New Deal Café, asks everyone to not ask the Café staff for technical help, as they are café professionals not computer techs. For assistance, computer users can contact Dorian Winterfeld at dorian@greenbelt.com or Ed James at edjames@greenbelt.com.

wE nede your HELLP!

The News Review is looking for a few dependable volunteers for help on Wednesday evenings with proofreading

Contact Mary Lou at 310-441-2662 or Eileen at 301-513-0482

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Pat Davis, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Al Geiger.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

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Week of Dec. 17

CLOSER (R)

Friday

*5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Saturday

*2:30, *5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Sunday

*2:30, *5:00, 7:30

Monday-Thursday

*5:00, 7:30

*These shows at \$5.00

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Community Events

Knit and Crochet Group Forms

The Greenbelt Recreation Department is beginning a new knit and crochet group on Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon at the Greenbelt Community Center, beginning January 7. Participants will make 12-inch knit or crochet squares to be joined together to form sampler afghans that will be donated to local charities. Anyone interested in joining the group should call the Greenbelt Community Center 301-397-2208. All skill levels are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Experienced knitter Eve Gresser and experienced crocheter Bill Souser will be on hand to teach and assist. Yarn will be provided and some knitting needles and crochet hooks are available. Those who have their own hooks or needles are asked to bring them.

The Friday morning class time will be spent learning and practicing new patterns as well as sharing ideas and information. Those unable to join the group on Friday mornings but interested in knitting or crocheting squares are invited to call the number above. This would be an appropriate project for homeschoolers and their instructors to work as a community service project and learn a new skill in the process.

ACE Sponsors Writing Contest

The ACE Reading Club, a community-based reading program originally established through a grant acquired by the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education and now funded by the City of Greenbelt, is hosting the third annual ACE Reading Club Youth Writing Contest. Students in grades 6 through 12 who live or attend school in Greenbelt are eligible to enter the writing contest, which focuses on poetry and short fiction. The theme for this year's contest is "New Beginnings." There are two divisions: junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12). Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three selections in each division. Entries are due by February 28 and should be addressed to ACE Reading Club, Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. It is free to enter the contest. Questions should be directed to Liz Murrery, coordinator of the ACE Reading Club by phone at 301-345-6660 or by email at acereadingclub@ci.greenbelt.md.us.



New Year's Eve Volunteers Meeting

Volunteers providing supervision and security at the Community Center at the Greenbelt New Year's Eve celebration will meet on Thursday, December 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center multipurpose room to review policies and procedures. To volunteer and receive free admission and an "Event Staff" T-shirt call Daniel Hamlin, 301-982-0048.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

There was a large turnout at the December 8 meeting to hear Dr. S. Trifoglio. She's a geriatric specialist and gave a wonderful talk on aging and our bodies, then answered lots of questions from the audience. We hope she'll be back to speak again.

The Golden Age Club officers of 2004 wish everyone a joyful and loving holiday season. We're looking forward to a great year in 2005.

See everyone at our next meeting on January 5, 2005 when Golden Agers will meet the new officers.

GED Classes Begin Jan. 11

Greenbelt CARES will conduct the winter GED course from Tuesday, January 11 through Thursday, March 24.

Registration for the course will be held on Tuesday, January 11 from 10:30 to 12:30 only. The first class of instruction will be Thursday, January 13.

GED I meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for students who need review of basic math and English grammar skills. GED II meets from 1 to 3 p.m. for students who have successfully completed GED I and/or are ready to learn algebra and geometry, English literature and writing skills and prepare to take the GED test.

GED classes are every Tuesday and Thursday, for 10 weeks, in the Municipal Building Conference Room, 25 Crescent Road. Students are required to show proof of residency such as a current lease, phone or electric bill, driver's license or motor vehicle I.D. card. There is no charge for Greenbelt residents. Non-Greenbelt residents are required to pay a \$150 registration fee. All students are required to purchase a copy of the GED textbook and calculator from Greenbelt CARES.

Students do not have to be 16 years of age in order to take the GED course. Students are eligible to take a GED pre-test given at Greenbelt CARES at no cost. The actual GED test is given by the State of Maryland, not Greenbelt CARES. However, students who are ready to take the test can obtain the application forms from Greenbelt CARES.

Questions and enrollment information should be directed to Judy Hering, course instructor, at Greenbelt CARES at 301-345-6660, ext. 2016, or email: jhering@ci.greenbeltnmd.gov.

Star Party

Weather permitting, the Greenbelt Astronomy Club will host a star party this Saturday, December 18. This event will take place at the Wolfe Fields on Northway Extended. The club and its members will have telescopes available to share views of celestial objects. Sunset will be at about 4:45 p.m. and good viewing should begin no later than 6:25 p.m. In the event of precipitation or hopelessly cloudy skies at the time of the event, the star party will be cancelled without further notice.

Greenbelt Concert Band Performs

The Greenbelt Concert Band conducted by Tom Cherrix will present its annual holiday lights concert program on Sunday, December 19, at 3 p.m. on the stage of the Community Center. The program will include many familiar seasonal favorites with some arrangements done by band leader Cherrix or other band members.

The Greenbelt Concert Band Children's Choir will also perform several numbers.

For more information about the band contact Tom Cherrix at 301-552-1444 or the Greenbelt Recreation Department at 301-397-2200.

Post Office Open Later on Dec. 18

Holiday hours at the Greenbelt Post Office on Saturday, December 18 will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Schools to Dismiss Early on Dec. 23

Prince George's County Public Schools is alerting parents, teachers and students to a change in the second-quarter calendar. All activities will stop and students will have a half-day schedule on Thursday, December 23.

School system CEO André J. Hornsby enacted this change with board of education approval in order to allow teachers to finish recording grades prior to the beginning of winter break. To accommodate this change, January 7 will be a full school day.

Parents should make childcare and other arrangements in advance to accommodate this scheduling change.

City Notes

Five permits were issued, one for an addition/deck and four for commercial interior alterations.

Planning staff executed the contract for Phase II of the theater renovation and began review of the ICC Draft Environmental Impact statement.

Public Works

Facilities staff assisted the fire alarm company representative in replacing and testing two heat detectors at the Aquatic and Fitness Center and repairing one smoke detector in the dispatch office at the police station.

The horticulture crew hauled logs from the Public Works building to Crescent Road for citizen use.

The parks crews accepted delivery of the new equipment for the playground near 73 Court Ridge. Old equipment and the wood forms were removed. Some of the pieces which will be reinstalled were sanded and painted.

Greenbelt CARES

The Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) hosted its annual "Meeting for Principals" on December 13. Five area schools were represented: Greenbelt, Springhill Lake and Magnolia Elementary Schools, Greenbelt Middle School and Eleanor Roosevelt High School. In addition to reviewing the past year, ACE and the principals discussed current needs and concerns. One universal theme was that all the schools need a more dependable pool of substitute teachers and more school-based volunteers.

On Screen

Entwined Couples

"Closer," a different kind of holiday film, opens Friday, December 17 at Old Greenbelt Theatre for a projected run of at least two weeks. In contemporary London, two attractive couples – a stripper (Natalie Portman), dermatologist (Clive Owen), photographer (Julia Roberts) and writer of obituaries (Jude Law) – meet, mix, match and unmatch with "equal amounts of hostility and vulgarity," says one reviewer, in dialogue "as pointed, cold and sharp as an icicle," all in the name of love.

Director Mike Nichols has reworked an award-winning

play by Patrick Marber, here the screenwriter. A sense of theater casts a shadow as the foursome work through their toils in settings simultaneously luxurious and understated. Another viewer notes that the couples morph from "the very worst of average people (to) the very best of the baddest." Several performances by the all-star lineup in this psychological drama are being touted for Academy Award consideration and the film was in second place at the box office early this week.

– Eli Flam

New Deal Café Will Serve Jazz, Then Breakfast Buffet

by Richard McMullin

Just not sure what to do for New Year's?

Whether looking for the biggest party or trying to avoid the crowds, the loud music and the fast food frenzy, at midnight it's all over for another year. Or is it?

Well now there is one place in town to gather with friends and get away from the new year's hoopla for a traditional first early breakfast. The manager of the New Deal Café, Ellen Siegel, will be serving up a new tradition at the Café, a New Year's Breakfast Buffet starting at 1 a.m. All the favorites including scrambled eggs, sausage, vegi

sausage, bacon, French toast, bagels and potatoes O'Brien, just to name a few. Also New Deal coffees, teas and juice. For those who've worked up an appetite seeing in the new year or just would like to unwind for a while with a few friends, the Café will be open into the early morning.

The Café will be part of the First Night celebrations in Greenbelt offering live jazz from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. From 9 p.m. to midnight the official first night armband will be needed to enter the café and can be purchased at the Community Center or that evening at the Café. After midnight all are welcome.

ERHS "Ice Raiders" On Winning Roll

Eleanor Roosevelt High School's Ice Raiders won their fourth consecutive Maryland Scholastic Hockey League game against Southern High School's Ice Dawgs. In their 7-4 victory, Raider forward Mike Kerdock tallied four goals, goalie Josh Harab made 22 saves and forwards Joel Cannon and Mike Roberts scored twice and once, respectively. Assists went to Tony Buemi, Patrick Cates, Justin Harab, Kerdock and team captain Matthew Fox.



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Each year the News Review publishes Holiday Greetings from area residents. To place your own message, contact the Ad Desk at 301-474-4131. Greetings are scheduled to be printed in the December 23 issue of the newspaper. The deadline is Sun., Dec. 19 at 10 p.m.!



Something different for New Year's?

A Breakfast Buffet

at the **New Deal Café!**

JAZZ from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Then at 1 a.m. the New Year's Breakfast Bash begins!!!
See our holiday fliers for details

Berwyn Heights Community Center
6200 Pontiac Street 301-345-2808

• Afternoon Crop Session/Lunch

\$10 County Res. (\$12 nonresident)

Crop your printed photos, arrange in creative scrapbook pages. Register by Jan. 8

• Youth Sports Instructor needed

Responsible adult to lead 3-5 year old youngsters in TOT Sport Program, Sat. mornings

M-NCPPC – Serving Prince George's, Montgomery Counties

Wildlife Center Has Book Signing

A book signing and presentation of “Central and Southern Appalachian Wildflowers” with authors Barbara and Victor Medina will be held on Sunday, December 19 at 3 p.m. at Patuxent Research Center’s National Wildlife Visitor Center. A limited number of books will be available at the Wildlife Images Bookstore.

The center is located off Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 197 just south of Laurel. For more information, call 301-497-5763 or TDD 301-497-5779.

M-NCPPC Receives National Award

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has earned national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The local parks, recreation and planning agency serves both Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties in Maryland.

During an 18-month process M-NCPPC met each of the 155 standards in 10 categories, such as strategic planning, resource management, public information and marketing, human resources, fiscal management, programs and services, facility and land use management, safety and security, and research and evaluation.

The final report cited M-NCPPC for a number of strengths: “. . . not in the facilities and programs that are offered, even though they are tremendous. The real strength of the agency lies with the pride, professionalism and enthusiasm of the staff. Everyone, no matter what their job, truly enjoys working for this agency and providing quality services to the residents and visitors of the region,” the report said.

“The commission is privileged and delighted to accept this CAPRA accreditation on behalf of the 1.7 million residents we serve in Prince George’s and Montgomery counties,” said Elizabeth M. Hewlett, chairman of the Prince George’s County Planning Board and the commission. “It is truly an exceptional honor to be nationally recognized as the best in our field.”

The M-NCPPC was established by state law in 1927 to provide acquisition and maintenance of parkland and regional planning and zoning for the citizens of Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. For more information log on to www.mncppc.org or call 301-952-4314, 301-495-4602 or 301-699-2407.

Leonardi Wildlife Art

Wildlife artist Steve Leonardi is featured during December at the Patuxent Research Refuge. He has done a number of works on mammals in addition to birds of prey, waterfowl and songbirds. The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between the B-W Pkwy. and Rt. 197, south of Laurel.

MVA Explains Vehicle Donation

As the end of the year quickly approaches, people across Maryland are taking the step of donating vehicles to charities. The Maryland Vehicle Administration (MVA) wants to remind Marylanders to take a few precautions when deciding to donate a vehicle to charity.

In Maryland, in order for a charity to legally transfer a donated vehicle for profit, the charity must be licensed as a wholesaler. A complete list of charities licensed by the MVA as wholesalers is available on the web at www.marylandmva.com.

The transaction should be handled the same way it would if the vehicle were being sold. Make certain to fill in the charity’s name and address in the “Assignment of Ownership” portion of the vehicle’s title. Keep the receipt and a copy of the title assigned to the charity as verification of the transaction. Also, donors should take both license plates off the donated vehicle and either drop them off at the nearest MVA branch office or transfer the plates to their new vehicle. If turning the plates in to the MVA, wait until this step is completed before canceling the insurance on the vehicle.

A booklet, entitled “How to Properly Buy, Sell or Donate a Vehicle,” is also available. Log on to www.marylandmva.com or call 1-800-950-1MVA for more information.



December 10 was Community Planner Kristen Ward’s last day with Planning and Community Development. We wish her all the best in her new life as she moves to Kentucky to marry her high school sweetheart.

Congratulations to Navy Seaman Kyle J. Benson, a 2004 graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and to Navy Seaman Recruit Thomas D. Brown, Jr., son of Debbie L. Brown of Greenbelt and Thomas D. Brown, Sr., of Washington, D.C. Both men recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, seamen complete a variety of training including classroom study and practical instruction with emphasis also placed on physical fitness.

Refuge Tours Offered in December

Discover the way Patuxent Research Refuge provides habitat for and manages wildlife on a 45 minute guided hike leaving from the National Visitor Center. Participants must be ages 12 and older. No registration is necessary. The Saturday tours will take place at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on December 18. Sunday tours will be held at 1:30 p.m. on December 19 and 26. Call 301-497-5763 for directions or more information.

Christmas Eve Event At Methodist Church

A Christmas pageant followed by a Festival of Holy Nativity and gift exchange will be held at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church on Friday, December 24 at 7 p.m. A special invitation is extended to those people who are visiting home during the holidays. Those who would like to join in the gift exchange should bring a gift to share.

Candlelight Service

A candlelight service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas eve at the Greenbelt Community Church. Scripture, carols and Holy Communion bring back the center of the season. All are welcome.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road,
Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)
*Welcomes you to our open,
nurturing community*
December 19, 10 a.m.
"Spirit of the Christmas Tree"
Barbara W. ten Hove, with
Natalie Fenimore, director of R.E.
and Nancy Boardman, worship assoc.
Barbara Wells ten Hove,
Jaco B. ten Hove,
co-ministers

Happy Holidays

Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

Baha'i Faith
"The Prophets and Messengers of God have been sent down for the sole purpose of guiding mankind to the straight Path of Truth. The purpose underlying their revelation hath been to educate all men, that they may, at the hour of death, ascend, in the utmost purity and sanctity and with absolute detachment to the throne of the Most High."
- Baha'i Sacred Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160
www.bahai.org www.us.bahai.org

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111
Fri., Dec. 24 5:00 p.m., 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Sat., Dec. 25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service
Sun., Dec. 26 8:45 a.m. Fellowship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship

Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail myholycross@verizon.net

Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor
"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."

ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322

Christmas & New Year's Schedule

Confessions
December 20, 21 and 22 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Masses
Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
Children's Mass – 5:00 p.m.
Solemn Mass – 12:00 Midnight
Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day
9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
There will be no Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 26 – Solemnity of the Holy Family
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Friday, December 31 – New Year's Eve
Vigil Mass of Mary Mother of God – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday Morning, January 1 – New Year's Day
Holy Day Mass for Mary Mother of God – 10:00 a.m.
Saturday Evening, January 1
Vigil Mass for Epiphany – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 2 – Epiphany
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

Pastor: Fr. Walter J. Tappe
Pastoral Associate: Fr. R. Scott Hurd

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
301-474-9410 www.gbgm-umc.org/mowatt

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH
Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net
Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor

Sun. Worship 8:35 am, 11:00 am
Wed. Praise and Prayer 7:00 pm
Wed. Living Proof, Youth Event 7:00 pm

"Building Bridges to the Family of God thru the Love of Christ"

St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church
7010 Glenn Dale Road
(Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org

Sundays: 8:00 am Simple, quiet Mass
9:00 am Christian education for all ages
10:00 am Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted
1:30 pm Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)
Wednesdays: 7:00 pm Simple, quiet Mass

An inclusive congregation!

DEAD END

Does life sometimes seem overwhelming, empty and like a dead end street? If we have a connection with our Creator and seek His help, it's never a dead end.

"Nay. Seek (God's) help with patient perseverance and prayer. It is indeed hard, except on the humble-minded. (Those) who bear in mind the certainty that they are to meet their Lord and that they are to return to Him."
- The Holy Qur'an, 2:45-46

For more information about Islam, contact muslimguide@hotmail.com or call 301-982-9463 or visit www.islam-guide.com.

PRAY for BRYAN

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Tootsie Roll Bowl Honors Peter Labukas

by Austin Conaty

The Knights of Columbus sponsors the Peter Labukas Tootsie Roll Bowl every November. This event is scheduled to fall on Veterans' Day each year in honor of those who fearlessly gave their lives in defense of our country. The event is publicized throughout the St. Hugh's Parish Community by means of flyers, signup lists, registration forms, and the school and church bulletins.

The event is named for Peter Labukas, now deceased, who was a charter member of St. Hugh's Council and founder of the St. Hugh's Tootsie Roll campaign, youth football coach and World War II veteran. In the fifth year of this annual event, the daughters of Labukas, Elizabeth and Kathy, helped to run the CYO tailgate party.

The event attracted approximately 25 young people between the ages of 3 and 15. The 5th, 6th, and 7th graders started right at 1 p.m., and the game continued until the 8th graders took over at 2 p.m. The CYO handled the BYO/CYO concession stand, and

the Knights administered the game handling, coaching, refereeing, the announcer's table and the pre-game and halftime ceremonies. The weather was perfect for football and the final score was Saints 30 - Seahawks 30.

Each year honorees are selected to receive a game ball, signed by all participants, and a charity is selected to receive a contribution. This year's honorees were the families of two brother Knights who died in 2004, Ignatius Nwachukwu and Joseph Hanyok. These brothers exemplified the family life, charity and patriotism honored by the Tootsie Roll Event on Veterans' Day. The Nwachukwu family and Celia Hanyok will be contacted for presentation of the game ball at the American Legion's annual oratorical contest to be held in February 2005. The Legion's annual Oratorical Contest will be the beneficiary of the day's fundraising.

Kids who played were as follows: 4th grade: Mark Bailey; 5th grade: Sam Moore, Andrew Kennedy; 6th grade: Robert Bailey, Stephen Cox, Paolo Cocchiaro, Floyd Emelife, Danny Parisi, Derek Pittman; 7th grade:

Sean Kennedy, Matt Elsasser; 8th grade: Matt Beaver, Audrey Berard, Kwame Carrion, Wesley Hilliard, Sarah Layton, Eric Meyer, Jonathan Nguyen, Patience Nwachukwu, James Riordan, Megan Shaffer, Sapphyre Victor-Jones, Aaron Viegas and Archithia Vishnuvajjala. Ninth grader Greg Meyer came for the challenge game against the Knights of Columbus but his fellow St. Hugh Alumnus did not. That makes the experienced Knights team 2-0 against the youth ministry in the total series. Knights who participated were referees Joe Griffith and Fred Meyer, coaches Sean Bailey and Austin Conaty, time/scorekeeper Paul Rall, registrar Paul Sabol, general managers Larry Hilliard and Chaplain Father Walter Tappe.

Thanks also go to photographer Agnes Conaty, equipment suppliers Eric Hansen and Peggy Shaffer, coach Ted Elsasser, Bar-B-Q watchers Angela Parisi and Kristina Kavanaugh, cheerleader Haley Hilliard and to all the parents and friends who came out to watch.



Participants in the Tootsie Roll Bowl pose for the camera.

A Review "Music Amongst Friends" Delights with Concert

by Judy Bell

Greenbelter Muriel Balzar, founder and artistic director of "Music Amongst Friends," put together a lovely afternoon of music on Sunday, December 12 at Harmony Hall in Fort Washington. The professional musicians included four sopranos, a tenor, two violinists, a violincellist and Balzar on piano performing "A Celebration of Christmas" for an appreciative audience of approximately 60 people.

The first half of the concert featured traditional classical music with different combinations of singers and musicians. I especially enjoyed "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" sung by gifted soprano Michelle Fawlin, a hauntingly beautiful song which brought tears to my eyes.

Light Christmas carols brought a change of pace for the second half of the program with tunes such as a delightful version of "Winter Wonderland" sung by Gina Vikari Moore and James K. Moore. The last group of songs included more serious carols beginning with "Silent Night" and "In the Bleak Midwinter." A surprisingly-rich version of the "Hal-

lelujah!" (Messiah) chorus found all the musicians engaged, as well as any audience member who wished to participate. Someone remarked that it sounded like a full choir.

What a wonderful pre-holiday treat!

Balzar, who has performed at Carnegie Hall, is well known in Greenbelt as accompanist in previous years to the Combined Choir for their annual Christmas concerts. She received a master's degree in piano performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Johns Hopkins University. She has done extensive solo, ensemble and accompanying work throughout the United States, including performances in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, the Kennedy Center Atrium Theatre, the Baltimore Lyric Opera House/Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and The Barns at Wolf Trap.

The Harmony Hall concert was sponsored by Rick Jones Pianos, as well as a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. For more information visit the website at musicamongstfriends.com.

DUTTON continued from page 1

She has also held numerous chairmanships on the department level, in addition serving as department president, first and second vice president and historian. On the national level, Dutton served as chairman of numerous committees, including Americanism, children and youth, legislative and veterans affairs and rehabilitation. She was the director of Girls Nation in 1997.

Dutton is a charter member of Eight and Forty Salon 796 and a member of La Societe de Femme Caban Locale #265. She is a senior account executive with Summit Marketing (formerly Harper and Company), a promotional products firm in the Washington, D.C. area. She is married to Dick Dutton, a past post- and Prince George's County commander of the American Legion; they have one son Jack and a daughter-in-law Amanda.

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City Information

OPENINGS ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups.
Vacancies exist on the:
Advisory Planning Board
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

Volunteer to work with Emergency Assistance Fund

The Emergency Assistance Relief fund was established to assist Greenbelt residents who need assistance to pay rent to avoid possible eviction from their home. Volunteers are needed to work with individuals referred to this fund. Volunteers conduct an assessment of the individual's financial need and provide information about and assist in connecting to other financial community resources available. If you are interested in volunteering to work with this fund or would like more information please contact Liz Park, CARES director at 301-345-6660.

GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71

MUNICIPAL ACCESS 301-474-8000:
Tuesday & Thursday, December 21 & 23: 10am & 6pm "Ask the Expert-Wills, Not for Seniors Only," **6:30pm** "Santa Comes to Town," **6:30pm** "Festival of Lights Tree Lighting with the Greenbelt Concert Band," **7:30pm** "Holiday Lights Concert" featuring the Greenbelt Concert Band.

PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581:
Wednesday & Friday, December 22 & 24: 7:00pm "Future View," **7:30pm** Lions Club Meeting of October 12, 2004, **8:45pm** "Town Hall Meeting with Doug Peters," **10:00pm** Prince George's Little Theater's "A Christmas Carol."

Holiday Hours: Greenbelt Recreation Facilities

	GCC	GAFC	YC/SHLRC
December 24	9am - 5pm	6am-5pm	12- 5pm
December 25	12-4pm	12-4pm	12-4pm
December 31	9am-1pm	6am-5pm	12- 5pm
January 1	12-4pm	12-5pm	12-5pm

GCC - Greenbelt Community Center
GAFC - Greenbelt Aquatics and Fitness Center
YC - Youth Center
SHLRC - Springhill Lake Recreation Center

Return to the Emerald City

GREENBELT NEW YEAR 2005

Take a trip down the Yellow Brick Road to an alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration featuring entertainment for all ages, at these adjoining venues in the heart of historic Greenbelt:

Greenbelt Community Center • Greenbelt Youth Center
Greenbelt Arts Center • Greenbelt Theater
New Deal Café

The party begins at 7pm on Friday, December 31 and lasts till after midnight

Confirmed entertainment: DC Motors, John Hill, Magic Mike, Kaydee Puppets, Goddard Storytellers, The Banjo Man, Wacky Hair Salon, Scottish Country Dancers, DJ and Giant Action Games, Teen Cabaret, GAVA/GATE Animation Festival, Craft making in the Emerald City Workshop, Desserts by Chef Lou, Countdown to midnight. . . plus more to come!

Admission wristbands are \$5 until December 30; \$7 at the door. Wristbands go on sale Monday, November 29 at Greenbelt Cop, the Community Center, and the Youth Center. Hosted by the Greenbelt New Year Committee and the Greenbelt Recreation Department. For more information, call the Community Center at 301-397-2208.

County Registers Off-road Vehicles

The Prince George’s County Council unanimously passed (8-0), a bill proposed by Councilmembers Thomas E. Dernoga (District 1) and Douglas J.J. Peters (District 4) requiring registration of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), miniature scooters and motorcycles and other off-road vehicles not yet subject to registration under state law.

The legislation seeks to require a two-year registration and tags for all off-road vehicles. The bill also establishes operation restrictions for off-road vehicles, including that they cannot be operated on any public street or sidewalk within the county; may only be operated on private property, with written permission, between the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; that children under 16 years of age must be supervised by a parent or guardian; and that helmets must be worn by drivers and passengers while the vehicles are in operation.

The bill also creates a penalty structure for violation of the law, including a \$250 fine for first violation, \$500 for second violation and \$1,000 for subsequent violations. The legislation also authorizes the Prince George’s County Police Department to impound unregistered off-road vehicles and to seek injunctive relief for potential violation and monetary compensation for damages resulting from violation of the law. The bill provides for exceptions to the requirements for motorized golf carts operated by public or private golf courses, motorized wheelchairs and scooters for disabled persons and government operated off-road vehicles.

The law will become effective on April 1, 2005 to allow for an education period for users.

Home Design Contest Begins

“Raise the Roof: Recreating Home in Prince George’s County, Maryland,” a national public art competition, seeks innovative and creative house designs. Selected designs will be developed into sculptural, three-dimensional models for public art exhibition in 2005. Up to \$10,000 in cash prizes will be awarded for outstanding houses in these specific categories: artistic, green, historical, fanciful and peoples choice. Raise the Roof will recognize personal interpretations of home and aims to provide public awareness of the vital importance of house design and its connection to the quality of life.

The competition is open to all. Artists, architects, designers, engineers, homebuilders, students and homebodies of all ages are encouraged to enter. Each selected artist/designer will be awarded up to \$1,600 to construct a three-dimensional scale model and be eligible for the cash prizes. The deadline for entries is March 1.

For more information and to download the prospectus, click on House Call for Entries at www.pgparcs.com or call 301-454-1450, TTY 301-454-1472.

Blood Drive
Tues, Dec. 21
at Doctors Hospital
10am to 2pm

Hubble Will Live To Keep Exploring

Congressman Steny Hoyer released the following statement applauding the National Academy of Sciences National Research Council recommendation to launch a space shuttle mission to save the Hubble Space Telescope. The Academy’s study was conducted at the request of Hoyer and other members of Congress.

“The recommendation by the National Academy of Sciences is a clear recognition of the unique role that the Hubble Space Telescope plays in broadening our scientific understanding of the observable universe and the importance of taking the appropriate measures to ensure Hubble remains viable. I endorse the Academy’s recommendation for a manned servicing mission to repair Hubble and extend its life so that future generations will be able to further understand and explore distant galaxies and the mysteries of space. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure that a new servicing mission is adequately funded and supported.”

The Hubble Space Telescope is managed and operated by Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt for the Office of Space Science at NASA headquarters. The scientific operations of the Hubble Space Telescope Mission are conducted at the Space Telescope Scientist Institute, located at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The National Academy of Sciences National Research Council is a private nonprofit society of the nation’s top scholars created to advise the federal government on science and technology.

UM Balance Study Seeks Volunteers

The University of Maryland Department of Kinesiology on the College Park campus is conducting a balance study to determine how the brain blends the information from vision, touch and vestibular (inner ear) signals into one’s perception of body position. One of the reasons some people over 65 fall is that their brain isn’t putting all the pieces of the sensory puzzle together accurately. They may not be able to perceive their body position well enough to keep from falling.

Through the study the University hopes to learn how people over 70 use vision and touch to keep their balance. Currently, they need participants 70 and over who are having trouble with their balance and another group whose balance is steadier for comparison. Potential participants will complete a questionnaire to help the Dept. of Kinesiology decide whether they are eligible to participate in the study. Callers will be mailed a questionnaire to complete and return. Those selected will be asked to come to the College Park for two testing sessions of two hours each. The balance tests are not strenuous but demand attention.

Participants must provide their own transportation but will be given a parking permit and a small stipend for their time. An important benefit is that participants will learn about their balance abilities and risks for falls from the results of the tests.

Interested seniors should call 301-405-2574.

Holiday Activities

Memorial Ceremony Offered by Hospice

Hospice of the Chesapeake is hosting its annual Tree of Lights ceremony on Sunday, December 19 at 5 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 5924 Princess Garden Parkway in Lanham. This ceremony is an occasion for anyone in the community to remember the loss of a loved one during the holiday season.

The ceremony will begin with the lighting of the Tree of Lights followed by meditation, music and refreshments. Participating families will receive a keepsake ornament in memory of their loved one. To register, call 301-499-4500.

Hospice of the Chesapeake improves the quality of life through hospice and other palliative care, compassionate support and education for those experiencing advanced illness or bereavement.

Holiday Health Talk At Adventist Hosp.

Learn how to maintain good health during the busy holiday season. Washington Adventist Hospital is sponsoring a free lecture on Tuesday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring. The lecture is open to the public. For more information, call 301-681-1255.

Museum Features Model Trains

This holiday season the College Park Aviation Museum and the National Capital Trackers offer a week-long exhibition of the unique Trackers “O” Gauge (1/4 inch scale) model railroad. The Trackers, a metro-area model railroad club, operate their display, “Trains and Planes” in the museum’s main gallery daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, December 18 through Sunday, December 26. The museum will be closed on December 25.

There is a fee. The museum is located near the College Park Metro Station at 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park. Visit the Tracker website at <http://www.trainweb.org/NationalCapitalTrackers> and the museum website at <http://www.collegeparkaviationmuseum.com> for more information or call 301-864-6029, TTY 301-864-4765.

Laurel Holds Kids’ Holiday Program

Children of all ages are invited to the South Laurel Recreation Council’s 29th annual free children’s holiday program on Sunday evening, December 19, from 7 to 8 p.m. The program will be held in the multipurpose room of the Deerfield Run Elementary School and Community Center.

See “The Nicolo Whimsey Show,” a variety show for the whole family. The show will be followed by a visit with Santa and his friends. Parents may wish to bring a camera. Children attending the program will receive a free gift from the South Laurel Recreation Council volunteers.

The Deerfield Run Elementary School and Community Center is located at 13000 Laurel-Bowie Road near Contee Road, just west of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. For more information, call 301-776-2805.

MVA Holiday Hours

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) will close its full-service and express offices on Friday, December 24 and Saturday, December 25 in observance of Christmas. MVA full-service and express offices will also close on Friday, December 31 and Saturday, January 1 in observance of New Year’s. All vehicle emissions inspection program (VEIP) stations will also be closed. Online registration renewals and other time saving eMVA options are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by logging on to <http://www.marylandmva.com>. For additional information log on to the website or call the MVA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-950-1MVA (1-800-950-1682).



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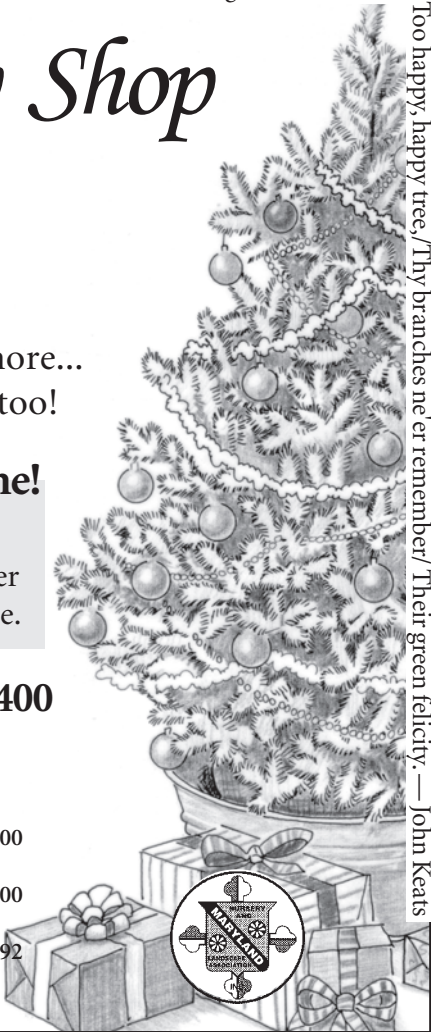
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Too happy, happy tree./Thy branches ne'er remember/Their green felicity.—John Keats

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Fresh Quality Meats			
Shurfine Grade A Boneless-Skinless Chicken Breasts \$1 ⁹⁹ lb.	Shurfine Spiral Sliced Half Ham \$1 ⁹⁹ lb.	Chef's Fresh Beef Bone-In Rib Roast \$5 ⁹⁹ lb.	Eberly Organic Whole Chicken \$2 ⁹⁹ lb.
Shurfine-Round Hill Frozen Self Basting Turkeys 69¢ lb.	Chef's Fresh 93% Super Lean Ground Beef \$2 ⁷⁹ lb.	Hot-To-Go Delicious Soup Bar Assorted \$2 ⁵⁹ lb.	Ball Park Meat Franks \$1 ⁴⁹ 16 oz.

DAIRY	DELI	FROZEN
Kraft Cracker Barrel Cheese Assorted 8-10 oz. 2/\$4	Hot-To-Go Whole Rotisserie Chicken \$4 ⁹⁹ Each	Turkey Hill Ice Cream Assorted 48-56 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Land-O-Lakes Pure Butter Quarters Regular-Lite 1 lb. 2/\$6	Deli Lean Roast Beef \$4 ⁹⁹ lb.	Hanover Gold Line Vegetables Assorted 8-16 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Breakstone Sour Cream Assorted 16 oz. 2/\$3	Tasty Cranapple Salad \$2 ⁹⁹ lb.	Mrs. Smith's Pies Assorted 35-37 oz. 2/\$7
Kraft Philadelphia Cream Cheese Regular-Less Fat 8 oz. Block 88¢	 Special Holiday Hours Open Christmas Eve From 8am-til-6pm Closed Christmas Day <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	Steak-Umm Thin Sliced Beef Sandwich Steaks Assorted 28 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
HEALTH & BEAUTY	SEAFOOD	NATURAL & GOURMET
Colgate Toothpaste Assorted 4.6-6 oz. 2/\$5	Orange Roughy Fillets \$6 ⁹⁹ lb.	Napa Valley Gourmet Mini-Mustards 4 Pk. 7 oz. \$2 ⁹⁹
Tylenol Extra Strength Caplets Geltabs 50 Pk. \$4 ⁹⁹	Fresh Salmon Fillets 32 oz. \$4 ⁹⁹	Twistini Pure Butter Croissant Twists Assorted 4 oz. \$1 ⁹⁹
		BAKERY
		Instore Baked Organic French Baguette 9.5 oz. \$1 ⁷⁹
		Instore Baked Cuisine-De-France Ciabatta Loaf 16 oz. \$3 ⁵⁹

GROCERY BARGAINS			
Green Giant Canned Vegetables Assorted 11-15 oz. 4/\$2	Gold Medal Flour 5 lb. Bag Original-Unbleached 99¢	Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce 16 oz. 99¢	Old Orchard Apple Juice-or-Juice Blends Assorted 64 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Betty Crocker Super Moist Cake Mix Assorted 18-21 oz. 99¢	Silver Floss Sauerkraut 27 oz. 79¢	College Inn Soup Broth Assorted 14.5 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Domino Baking Sugars 2 lb. Bag 10X-Light Brown 99¢
		Nestle Chocolate Morsels Assorted 11-12 oz. \$1 ⁶⁹	Purex Ultra Extra Value Size Laundry Detergent 200 oz. \$6 ⁹⁹

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	Sierra Nevada Pale Ale 6 Pk-12 oz. \$7 ⁶⁹	Citra Wines 1.5 Liter \$7 ⁹⁹	
	Rosemount Estate Wines 750 ML \$5 ⁹⁹	Schlitz Beer 12 Pack-12 oz. Cans \$4 ⁶⁹	
		Busch Beer 6 Pk.-12 oz. Cans \$3 ³⁹	
		Tosti Asti Spumante 750 ML \$7 ⁹⁹	

PRICES EFFECTIVE: DECEMBER

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26						

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Saturday 9 a.m. til 6 p.m. Closed Sunday 301-474-4400

POLICE BLOTTER

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department.
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Assault

December 2, 3:25 p.m., 6320 Golden Triangle Drive, a housekeeper at the Residence Inn reported that she was cleaning a hotel room when she saw a man standing in the doorway of the room. He allegedly acted as though he was staying in the room and at one point asked her if she wanted to take a shower with him. The housekeeper then called the front desk, at which time the man grabbed her by the wrists and pulled her to the bed. She was able to fight him off and he fled the scene. He is described as a black male in his thirties, 5'10", 160 pounds with black hair and a light complexion, wearing a black baseball type hat with the letters NY in white, a blue long sleeve shirt with a gray short sleeve Nike shirt over it, blue jeans and two tone shoes.

December 4, 2:25 p.m., Buddy Attick Park, a woman reported that she was walking on the lake trail when she became involved in a verbal altercation with a man over walking on the wrong side of the trail. The man then walked by the woman, striking her with his shoulder in the process. He is described as a white male 60 years of age, 6'1", 180 pounds with blue eyes and silver hair, wearing tennis shoes and a navy blue jogging suit with a hood.

False Imprisonment

December 5, 1:41 a.m., Kenilworth Avenue and Crescent Road, a resident and a nonresident man were arrested and charged with false imprisonment and assault. An officer was waved down by the victims, who advised that earlier in the evening the victims and the two men were talking inside a vehicle belonging to one of the men in Oxon Hill. They all fled the scene in the vehicle after an alleged altercation with other people. Both victims asked to be let out of the vehicle, but the men refused, driving until the vehicle broke down on Kenilworth Avenue. When the victims attempted to flee the scene on foot, one was grabbed by her jacket in an attempt to restrain her and the other was grabbed around the throat. Both victims were able to break free and flag down a Greenbelt police officer. The resident was arrested on the scene and the nonresident was located and arrested in the 6300 block of Ivy Lane. Both were released to the department of corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

Robbery

December 5, 9:34 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane, a man reported that he was about to enter his apartment when he was approached from behind by two men, one of whom produced a handgun and announced a robbery. The man was forced into his apartment and tied up while the alleged robbers ransacked the residence, taking money. He was also threatened with a knife and sustained a minor cut. The suspects fled the scene and the victim freed himself and contacted police. The suspects are described as two Latino males, one with a light complexion and the other with a dark complexion.

December 6, 11:56 a.m., 7515

Greenbelt Road, a teller at the Chevy Chase Bank reported that a man entered the bank and passed a note to the teller announcing a robbery. No weapon was displayed and after obtaining an undisclosed amount of money the man fled the scene on foot, possibly in an easterly direction. The suspect is described as a black male, 20 to 30 years of age, 5'10", last seen wearing a skull cap and a dark colored jacket.

December 6, 8:32 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane, a man reported that he was approached in the parking lot by two juveniles. One pointed a handgun at him and announced a robbery. The second pushed him to the ground and took money from him. A third observed the robbery from a distance. All three then fled the scene on foot. They are described as a black male approximately 16 years of age, 5'10", 120 pounds with a medium complexion, wearing a light colored jacket and dark jeans; a black male approximately 16 years of age, 5'8", 120 pounds wearing dark clothing; and a black female juvenile, 5'5", 120 pounds wearing a pink jacket and light colored jeans.

December 7, 11:45 p.m., Greenway Center, a manager at Jasper's Restaurant reported that he was in the manager's office when a man entered the office and closed the door behind him. He then produced a handgun and announced a robbery. After obtaining an undisclosed amount of money the man tied up the manager and fled the restaurant. The manager was not injured. The suspect is described as a black male 25 to 30 years of age with a dark complexion, 5'11" to 6'2", 150 to 190 pounds with black hair, brown eyes, a beard and a mustache, wearing a black knit cap with white trim, a long black jacket, black pants and black shoes.

December 10, in reference to a robbery reported October 3 in the 5900 block of Cherrywood Terrace, an arrest warrant has been obtained charging a nonresident man with armed robbery, use of a handgun in a violent crime, first degree assault and second degree assault.

December 10, in reference to a robbery reported September 5 in the 5900 block of Cherrywood Terrace, an arrest warrant has been obtained charging a nonresident man with robbery and assault.

Weapons

December 3, 12:33 p.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a nonresident youth was arrested for concealed deadly weapon on school grounds after he was located loitering inside the school. As a school resource officer approached him, the youth attempted to conceal an item in his pants pocket. He was found to be in possession of a quantity of suspected marijuana and a knife. The youth was released to his parents pending action by the school board and the juvenile justice system.

December 7, 10:00 p.m., Kenilworth Avenue and Ivy Lane, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with auto theft, theft, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, three counts of possession of firearms and ammuni-

tion under the age of 21, possession of a short-barreled shotgun and several traffic citations. Police stopped a vehicle for a registration violation. A computer check revealed that the tag did not belong on the vehicle and that the vehicle itself, a 1986 Buick Century, had been reported stolen. Located in the vehicle were shotgun shells, a sawed-off shotgun and a .38 caliber handgun. The man was released to the department of corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner. Other occupants of the vehicle were released pending further investigation.

DWI

December 8, 11:16 p.m., Edmonston Road at the ramp to Kenilworth Avenue, a nonresident man under the age of 21 was arrested and charged with driving while impaired, driving under the influence and reckless driving after being stopped for a traffic violation. He was released on citations pending trial.

December 9, 2:44 a.m., Greenbelt Road and Walker Drive, a nonresident woman was arrested and charged with driving while impaired, driving under the influence, reckless driving, negligent driving and failure to obey a traffic device after being stopped for a traffic violation. She was released on citations pending trial.

Drugs

December 6, 12:00 p.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a resident man was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, gambling and disruption of school activities. A resident and a nonresident youth were arrested for gambling and disruption of school activities. A school administrator observed the suspects gambling in the cafeteria at the school. The adult was found to be in possession of a quantity of suspected marijuana and paraphernalia commonly used to ingest marijuana. He was released to the department of corrections for a hearing before a District Court commissioner. Both juveniles were released pending action by the school board and the juvenile justice system.

December 8, 1:42 a.m., Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Lane, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana after police stopped a vehicle for a registration violation. A computer check revealed that a passenger in the vehicle had an open warrant with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Department. Located in the passenger seat area was a quantity of suspected marijuana. The man was released to the department of corrections for a hearing before a District Court commissioner.

Unattended Child

December 4, 10:58 a.m., 7600 block Greenbelt Road, a resident woman was arrested and charged with leaving children unattended in a motor vehicle. A vehicle was observed illegally parked in a handicapped parking space. Police observed two infants, approximately 14 months of age, alone in the vehicle. The woman returned to her vehicle, was arrested and released on citation pending trial.

Disruption of School

December 7, 11:52 a.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a resident youth was arrested for disruption of school activities, underage possession of an alcoholic beverage and resisting arrest. Police observed the youth using a cellular telephone in violation of school board policy. He refused to stop his use of the cell phone and became combative. He resisted attempts to arrest him and was found to be in possession of an alcoholic beverage. The youth was released to his parents pending action by the school board and the juvenile justice system.

Open Alcohol

December 3, 1:54 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with open alcohol, disorderly conduct and littering. Police, patrolling the area looking for several suspicious people who had run from police a short time earlier, stopped three people, one who began shouting profanities. The man continued to act in a disorderly manner and had to be forcibly placed into custody. He was released to the department of corrections for a hearing before a District Court commissioner.

Burglary

December 1, 7:30 p.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, unknown person(s) used unknown means to enter a residence. A camcorder and money were taken.

December 2, 11:43 a.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive, unknown person(s) entered a residence by way of an unlocked sliding glass door. Clothing, video game players, video games, televisions and other electronics were taken.

December 6, 4:31 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive, unknown person(s) entered a residence by

breaking out a rear bedroom window. Two video game players, video games and a CD player were taken.

December 7, 6:07 p.m., 7900 block Mandan Road, unknown person(s) entered a residence by breaking out a dining room window. Cans of loose change and commemorative quarters were taken.

Vehicle Crimes

Six vehicles were stolen: a 1997 Plymouth Voyager van from Beltway Plaza Mall; a green 1994 Honda Accord 2-door, Maryland tags FXG811 from the 7900 block Lakecrest Drive; a 1987 Chevrolet pick up truck from the 16 court Ridge Road; a silver 2003 Mazda Protégé 4-door, Maryland tags LTJ783 from the 7200 block South Ora Court; a dark blue 1991 Plymouth Voyager van, Maryland tags 319M696 from the 6000 block Springhill Drive; and a 2004 Infiniti G35X 4-door, from the 6600 block Springcrest Drive. The vehicle was left running in front of the driver's residence.

Seven vehicles were recovered, one by Greenbelt police with an arrest and six by other police departments with arrests in two recoveries. In addition, one set of stolen tags was recovered.

Vandalism to and thefts from vehicles were reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza Mall, 9100 block Edmonston Court, 9100 block Edmonston Road, 9300 block Edmonston Road, Edmonston Terrace and Breezewood Drive, 6500 block Capitol Drive, 200 block Lakeside Drive, 10 court Southway, 8200 block Mandan Court, 7500 block Mandan Road, 7600 block Mandan Road, 7800 block Mandan Road (two incidents) and 7900 block Mandan Road.

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“SoberRide” Offers Free Taxicab Rides

Area officials have launched an anti-drunk driving initiative designed to reduce holiday-time, alcohol-related traffic incidents in the Washington metropolitan area. Citing the fact that the current holiday season is the deadliest time of year when it comes to drunk driving, a coalition of local law enforcement officials, business professionals and area citizens announced that free cab rides will again be offered throughout the winter holidays to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Offered by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the annual winter “SoberRide” program will operate between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. each evening through Saturday, January 1 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free “SoberRide” phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (1-800-200-8294) and be provided a no-cost (up to \$50), safe way home. (Cingular customers can call #-8294 for the same service.) “SoberRide” is offered in the District of Columbia, throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George’s and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, eastern Loudoun and Prince William. In these areas local taxicab compa-

nies will provide this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise might have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP’s “SoberRide” program has provided 26,693 free cab rides to potentially impaired drivers in the Greater Washington area.

For information visit WRAP’s web site at www.wrap.org.

Chief Craze Named To IACP Committee

The Greenbelt Police Department announced that Chief James R. Craze has been appointed as a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Financial Review Committee. He also serves on the organization’s executive committee.

The Finance Review Committee’s responsibilities include oversight of all of the association’s budgetary and financial matters, including preparation and presentation of the annual budget, monitoring of financial dealings of the association and other transactions necessary to the association’s business function.

Craze, a 32-year veteran of the Greenbelt Police Department, served as president of the Police Chief’s Association of Prince George’s County in 2002. In 2003 he served as president of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association.

SAPPINGTON continued from page 1

Eventually he said he was able to get the British to agree to work cooperatively for the common goal of preparing the Iraqis for self-government.

Sappington conceded that much of what is happening in Iraq today is politically motivated. He fears that Iraqi insurgents, with help from Iranians and Syrians, may undermine the upcoming elections. “A lot of Arab nations don’t want democracy to work,” he affirmed. “It scares them.”

He is also concerned about the heavy religious influence on the government and the extreme animosity expressed toward rival religious groups. He tried to instruct the Iraqi policemen to forget that they were Shiite or Sunni or Kurd. “You’re blue,” he would tell them. “You’re a policeman. Everyone [you work with on a patrol] is responsible for your safety. You do things to benefit everyone, not just yourself,” he explained.

Iraq Unstable

Nevertheless, he stated, “There needs to be a master plan, everyone needs to read from the same script.” He commented that the situation in Iraq is not stable and he feels that it will be years before the country will be able to govern itself. But he also believes that it was right for Americans to be in Iraq.

“Iraq could be richer than Kuwait,” he noted, “but it has to share its resources with the people.” He was most impressed by the importance of family in the Iraqi culture and the high hopes that Iraqi parents have for

Special Chief's Award Given

Doug Sappington retired from the Greenbelt Police Department in May of 2003. In October 2004, Sappington returned from serving a one-year assignment in Iraq training Iraqi citizens to become police officers. A special Chief’s Award was presented by the Greenbelt department to Sappington for his individual sacrifice and that of his family in doing their part “to make the world a safer and better place.” The award recognizes Sappington’s lifelong service to citizens both in this country and on foreign soil.

worst. After a year in Iraq, Sappington was more than ready to return to his home and family in Columbia, Md. He had made some good Iraqi friends, especially his Baghdad bodyguard who called him his brother. On his last night in Iraq, Sappington invited the bodyguard and his wife to dinner. “Tears were shed all the way around,” Sappington said. When asked if he would ever return to Iraq, he smiled and said, if he had not gone there “I would do it again – but not twice!” He went because he wanted to make a difference and he feels that he succeeded.

K-9 Unit Participates In Tracking Trials

On Saturday, December 4, members of the Greenbelt Police Department’s K-9 Unit participated in the United States Police Canine Association’s Tracking Certification Trials in Berkeley County, W. Va. Of the 36 teams competing, MPO John “Mike” Dewy and partner Duke finished fourth overall with a score of 173 out of a possible score of 180. MPO Marvin “Randy” Marks and partner Baron finished fifth overall with a score of 172. MPO Barry Byers and partner Rex finished fifteenth with a score of 139. In addition, Officer Dewy and partner Duke attained “Triple Crown” status, certifying in patrol, narcotics and tracking disciplines.

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS



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Three Bedroom Townhome
One of the few GHI homes with a bedroom and full bathroom on the first floor. Remodeled kit., stacking w & d and fenced yard. SOLD.

U.C. = Under contract; seller may consider back-up offers



Education is everybody's business!

What to Do When Children Have Problems in School

by Teresa Smithson, LCSW-C for CARES

Children who have developed normally prior to school age may still begin to exhibit learning problems as early as kindergarten and first grade. Parents and school staff can work together to determine what is affecting the child's progress and how best to address the problem.

The first thing to remember is that all children want to succeed and do their best. There are various factors parents need to consider when a child is not doing well in school. What specific school tasks are difficult – learning letters, putting letters together into words or doing computations? A sustained difficulty in a particular academic area may indicate the need for evaluation of a “learning disability.” Parents should not panic at the word “disability” as this can also be viewed as an alternative learning style. Once the teaching approach matches the learning style, these children will learn and even excel. Address concerns to the teaching team in written form and ask for an evaluation.

Did the learning difficulty surface following an illness or family crisis? Caregivers may want to consult with the teacher and school guidance counselor to determine if the child is distracted or preoccupied by emotional issues. Poor academic performance may express a child's worries about tensions in the home. Allowing the child an opportunity to talk about concerns, being reassured that they are not at fault and that caring adults are supportive can alleviate upset. Children may then need remedial help in the form of tutoring if they have fallen behind.

What if the problem takes the

form of seemingly willful misbehavior, such as shouting out answers, throwing tantrums or fighting with peers? The idea that these children want to succeed and do their best should guide investigation of the problem. The child may need additional training and guidance from parents and staff in how to handle frustration or conflict with peers. Could caregivers benefit from family counseling to help them better model and teach these skills? Does the child have opportunities to interact more appropriately and enjoyably with peers after school on play dates, trips to the playground or organized recreational activities? Children want to have friends and be liked by their peer group in general.

What does the child gain from throwing tantrums – attention or dismissal from a subject they do not enjoy? Such behaviors may be another indicator of a learning disability or alternative learning style. When children feel unsuccessful in their attempts to learn, they may act out their frustration.

The Greenbelt community has many resources for evaluating and addressing such school issues: counselors at Greenbelt CARES; a wide variety of recreational programs and concerned principals, guidance staff and teachers at the local schools. The key is to bring the issues to the attention of the appropriate resources in a timely way, so the child can experience the success and recognition they naturally seek. For more information, there are numerous websites for information on children's learning styles, including SchwabLearning.org and www.wrightslaw.com.

Teachers Receive Free Teaching Aids

Funding has been provided to the American Red Cross to bring age-appropriate disaster preparedness education materials to all public, private and parochial schools in the National Capital Region this school year at no cost to the schools.

Masters of Disaster is a disaster safety curriculum designed by the American Red Cross that integrates disaster safety into K-8 students' daily lesson plans. Children learn how to prevent, prepare for and respond to a disaster in their home, school or community. “Facing Fear” is a flexible curriculum intended to help young people be prepared for disasters and deal with the aftermath of terrorism and tragic events.

The National Capital Region includes the National Capital Area Chapter which serves Prince George's County.

Students Name Best Teachers

A select group of America's teachers are being honored by their toughest critics – their former students – in the eighth edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Students were requested to nominate one teacher from their entire academic experience who made a difference in their lives by helping to shape their values, inspire interest in a particular subject and challenge them to strive for excellence. Students also mentioned enthusiasm about their subject and the knowledge their nominated teachers demonstrated in the classroom.

All of the teachers honored were nominated by former students who themselves currently are listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students, Who's Who Among American High School Students – Sports Edition or The National Dean's List.

Nominees from the Greenbelt area are: Elaine Aiello, Kenneth Joseph Bernstein, Monroe Norman Brett, Andrea Collins Brown, Richard James Carrington, Brenda Lee Chapman, Paul Vincent Dembowski, Allison L. Galloway, Elizabeth Sarah Haverstick, Andrea Cappel Henderson and Coit Taylor Hendley, III.

Also Barbara Hutchins Leroux, Terry Noffsinger Linn, Joan Helman Magin, William Paul Manion, Jennifer Massagli, Kathleen McFeaters McGlew, Richard R. Renyer, Tonya R. Richardson, Carmen Iris Rios, Michael George Samordic, Julie Fatiadi Steimel, Belle R. Thomas, Yau Jong Twu, Sally Sterrett Wagner, Claudine Cotton Wilson and Carole Lee Windham from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Other Greenbelters are Francinia Earline Beech-Martin from T.C. Williams High School, Christel Lynn Rochelle Johnson from Annapolis Senior High School and Marjorie Ann Sparks from St. Hugh's School.

School System Wants Input on Budget

In preparing the budget for the next school year, the Board of Education and Prince George's County Public Schools' Chief Executive Officer, Dr. André J. Hornsby, are going online to get connected with parents and all stakeholders in the success of the school system.

A public opinion survey to gauge the general health of the school system is posted on the county schools' web site (www.pgcps.org) through January 19. County residents are encouraged to review the “Quality Schools Program Strategic Plan” and the current school year's budget when answering survey questions. The survey establishes an open forum to harness the public's overwhelming interest in education by gaining input on programs, identifying needs, targeting areas for improvements and aligning priorities for the 2005-2006 school year.

When logging on to the

school system website, participants may review the current year's budget, including program improvements, and provide feedback by answering a series of questions that include ranking programs in 12 areas as “high, medium or low” priorities.

People will see a comparison of Prince George's County public schools to other jurisdictions with regard to needs, including teacher salaries, costs per pupil, test scores and more. There is also space for general comments and to address areas not covered in the survey.

There will also be opportunities for public participation in the budget process through Board of Education work-sessions and open forums scheduled for January 13 at Largo High School, January 18 at Surratsville High School and January 19 at Rosaryville Elementary School. All public forums begin at 7 p.m.

FOCUS Applications Now Available

Application brochures for Contextual Learning Environment (CLE) programs are now available in all Prince George's County public schools and public libraries. Formerly known as “Magnets,” these specialized programs offer a wide range of subjects in selected elementary, middle and high schools. The CLEs provide unique activities and learning opportunities designed to broaden students' understanding and develop their talents in specific areas of interest.

The CLE programs are offered through the county public school system's FOCUS (Fine Opportunities Creating Unique Schools) Program Office. CLE programs are the result of an evaluation of previous Magnet programs. Successful programs were retained and expanded to include all students regardless of race.

The CLE Program opportunities include biotechnology, creative and performing arts, French immersion, Montessori, military academy, music and technology, talented and gifted and visual and performing arts. Detailed program information is available online at www.pgcps.org/~cle.

A lottery system will be used to place students in CLE school

programs for the 2005-2006 school year, utilizing a race-neutral, random selection process. Applications are sorted by program and CLE school assignments are made based on space availability, residence and sequence number. When all available slots are filled all other applications are given a waiting list number, again based on their program choice, grade and sequence number.

Openings are limited in all programs. Students are permitted to make one or two program choices on the application form. Placement will be made according to the first available opening in either program choice but only one program choice is granted.

The deadline for applications for the general registration lottery is on or before the close of business on January 14, 2005 at the following address: FOCUS Programs Office, Room 201-1, 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Only one application should be submitted per student. Mail all applications from the same family in the same envelope for sibling consideration.

For more information, call the FOCUS Programs Office, 301-952-6044.

Future Engineers Scholarships Open

Applications are now being accepted for the third annual Northrop Grumman Corporation Engineering Scholars program, which will provide a total of \$240,000 in college scholarships across Maryland next year to promising high school students interested in studying engineering.

Candidates must plan to attend an accredited college or university as a full-time student

in an approved engineering program. Applicants for the scholarship must be a Maryland resident and have a minimum composite SAT score of 1100 and a minimum GPA of 3.5 in grades 9 through 12.

The application deadline is March 1, 2005. Application forms are available at <http://www.es.northropgrumman.com/engscholars/>.

Tips When Driving Near School Buses

- It is against the law to pass a stopped school bus while lights are flashing and its stop arm is extended.
- On undivided roadways, with no physical barrier or median, vehicles must stop on both sides of the roadway.
- Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to load or unload children.
- Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off.
- Motorists approaching from either direction must wait until the red lights stop flashing before proceeding.
- Learn and obey the “alternately flashing warning light” system that school bus drivers use to alert motorists.

Assessment Sheets Now Multilingual

The Maryland State Department of Education has translated a fact sheet and letter to parents explaining the Maryland High School Assessments and how they affect students. The materials are now available on the Web in 15 languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Gujarati, Haitian, Creole, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

Visit the website at <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/translations.htm> for more information. For a printed copy, contact Ruby Green in the Communications and Strategic Planning Office at 410-767-0485.

Schools to Dismiss Early on Dec. 23

Prince George's County Public Schools is alerting parents, teachers and students to a change in the second-quarter calendar. All activities will stop and students will have a half-day schedule on Thursday, December 23.

School system CEO André J. Hornsby enacted this change with board of education approval in order to allow teachers to finish recording grades prior to the beginning of winter break. To accommodate this change, January 7 will be a full school day.

Parents should make childcare and other arrangements in advance to accommodate this scheduling change.

Send in your school news to the News Review for publication. Readers throughout the city are eager to hear good words about our youth!